

March 2019

Northwest Amateur Radio Society

IN THIS ISSUE

Headlines & Calendar	1
Meeting Location	2
President's Corner	3-4
DMR Training	5
March Meeting	5
February Meeting Recap	5
Opportunities to Serve	5
Announcements	6
Club Information	7-8

VE License Exam Info — Page 6

Lunch Break - North

Mar 13 BJ's Restaurant & Brewhouse
Mar 20 Gianna's
Mar 27 Spring Creek BBQ
Apr 03 Mi Rancho Grill & Bar
Apr 10 Panera Bread
Apr 17 Jason's Deli

Saturday Breakfast:

Saturdays at 7 am
Denny's 6504 FM 2920 @ TC Jester
(west of Kuykendahl)

Lunch Break - Medical Center

Mar 13 Pappas Barbecue
Mar 20 Morningside Thai
Mar 27 Niko Niko's Greek & American Café (BW-8 & I-10 West)
Apr 03 Antonio's Mexican Grill
Apr 10 Jason's Deli
Apr 17 Buffalo Grille

Monday Lunch (was Taildraggers lunch):

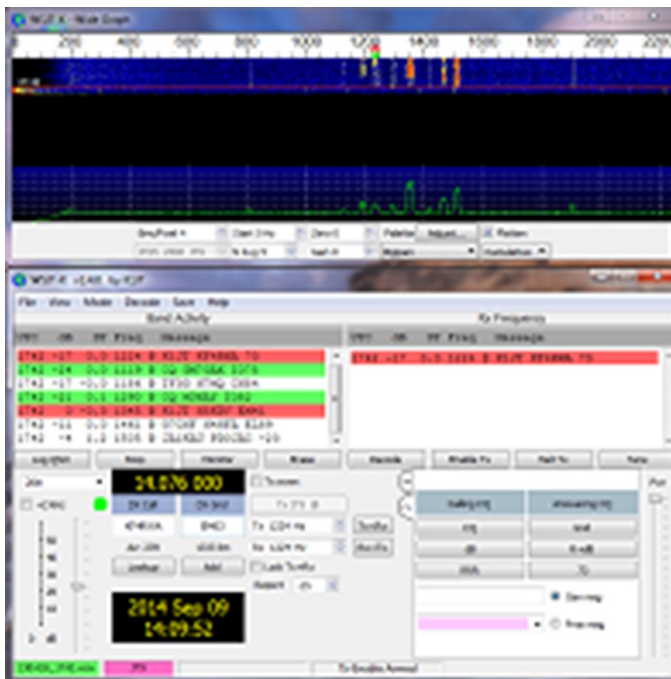
Mondays at 11 am; Goodson's in Tomball

Next Meeting: Friday, March 15th

WSJT-X FT8 JS8CALL

- Friday March 15th, 2019 at 7:30PM
- Klein Fire Department Administration, 16810 Squyres Rd., Klein, TX 77379.

This month W5MF will be demonstrating FT8 using WSJT-X software. This new mode has become very popular with DXer's and people who want to make quick contacts. We will be looking at the configuration and operation of this mode. We will also be demonstrating additional software features like JT Alert and Grid Tracker, which are add on programs that add some cool features. For those who wish to rag chew,



JS8Call has emerged using a similar mode to allow you to rag chew with others. WSJT-X software has additional modes like JT4, JT9, JT65 and QRA64. We will not be demonstrating them, but will take a brief look at those modes as well.

NARS News is published monthly by the Northwest Amateur Radio Society (NARS). Northwest Amateur Radio Society is a Special Services Club affiliated with the American Radio Relay League, ARRL Club No. 2120. Please send all submissions to the newsletter editor before the end of the month prior to publication.

Meeting Location

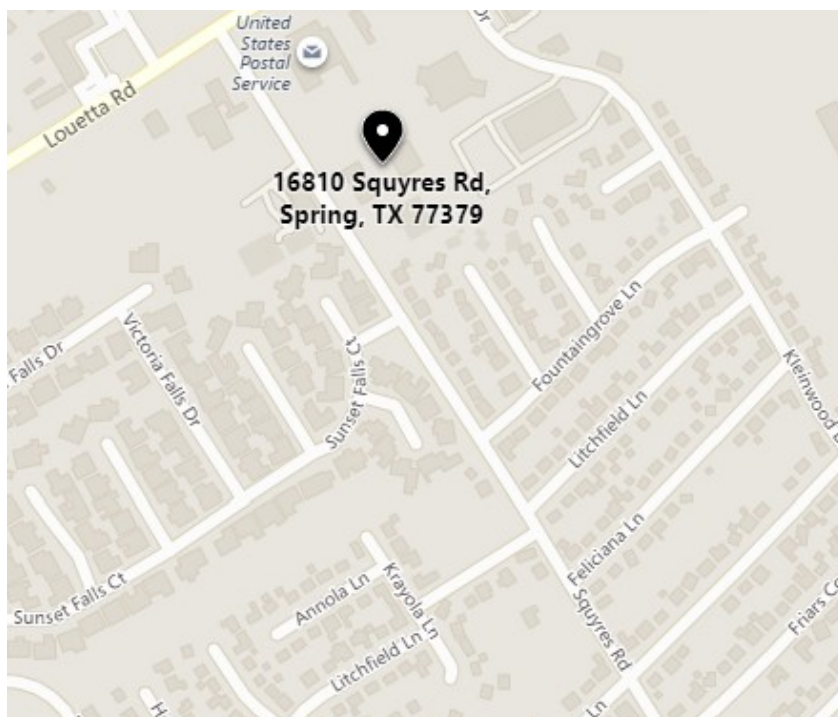
We will meet at Klein Fire Department Administration, 16810 Squyres Rd., Klein, TX 77379. It is located behind Klein Fire Station 4.



Picture from <http://kleinfiredept.com/services/stations/headquarters>

The Board wishes to thank the Klein Fire Department for the generous offer allowing NARS use of their facility.

LOCATION MAP — 16810 Squyres Rd.



President's Corner — March 2019

Club Repeater. We have heard your concerns and after several months of pondering options and planning a course of action, we have obtained the magic information to gain access to our Club's 146.66 2-meter repeater located in the Galleria area. A team comprised of Marty Fitzgerald, Keith Dutson and Walter Holmes will have access to the repeater on March 16th. They will be taking a new antenna along with several supplies so, with a lot of mechanical/technical support (and muscle) make every attempt to bring back life to the 146.66 repeater. We encourage everyone to be on frequency in the afternoon to help them assess coverage. Keep a watch on more news via the reflector as we approach March 16th.

What is FT8? FT8 is designed for situations like multi-hop Es where signals may be weak and fading, openings may be short, and you want fast completion of reliable, confirmable QSOs. This is a low cost, low power, free application that will allow you to get out there on HF and make some contacts with help of some automation using FT8. You don't need to have a tower (forget HOA hassles). Five watts and a long wire works wonders. At our March general meeting Marty Fitzgerald will be demonstrating what equipment to use and structure of FT8.

Field Day is in planning stages. We are considering a couple options this year and need your feedback. Option #1 we have reserved the Burroughs Park. This means all activities will be outdoors rain or shine. We would still have the usual amenities as last year i.e. putting up antennas, barbeque, setup stations for CW, VHF/UHF/DMR and HF voice communications. Option #2 utilize our current Club meeting location at the Klein Fire Department Administration. This will afford us the use of a kitchen for variety of food options, Air Conditioning facility for those not wanting to tolerate the outdoor humidity, a dedicated room for amateur radio operations and, is being offered to NARS as a club station. Large parking lot behind admin building for generators, antennas. We would also set up stations for CW, VHF/UHF/DMR and HF. Please let board members know your preference and if you would be willing to participate in the planning process.

VE Test Sessions

Please note the VE Session results, as posted elsewhere in this copy of the newsletter. I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the excellent group of Volunteer Examiners (VE's) we have for our NARS sponsored exam sessions. We have sessions scheduled for the fourth Saturday of each month, except for December (Christmas) and June (Field Day). We also have one or more special sessions each year, to support ham classes held about two times per year.

Please also check out our calendar as we have some very exciting programs coming up you will want to be sure to attend.

Continued on Page 4

Peanut:

If you are new to DSTAR, the peanut project will give you a first impression to the world of digital HAM radio. The Peanut project will provide some reflectors but not all. If you do not have a local repeater, you can run your own hotspot (DVMega, ZUMspot or MMDVM_HS) at home

New project called Peanut you can talk with HAM amateurs around the world via an Android device or network radio. Some of the ROOMS are connected to DSTAR reflectors (XRF076B, XRF076F, XRF71L, XRF070C etc..). You only need an Android device to use DSTAR.

Access

- **Make sure you are DSTAR registered user to use the DSTAR rooms!! Nobody will hear you when you are not registered.**
- You need a code to enter the Peanut network. This will prevent not licensed Amateurs to use the app.

Check if you are DSTAR registered : <https://wb1gof.dstargateway.org/cgi-bin/dstar-regcheck>

To register on DSTAR: http://www.dstargateway.org/D-Star_Registration.html

Click here to make a code request: [peanut-request](#)

Ron Matusek, WA6TQH President, NARS

Information needed

NARS needs information on how many members are also members of the ARRL. Please send an email to Marty Fitzgerald at fitz6@swbell.net telling us if you are a member of the ARRL. You can also send an email to Marty if any of your member information changes such as a phone number, address, call sign, or license class.

The ARRL information is needed to help us maintain our affiliated club status and the benefits that come with being an affiliated club.

Opportunities to Serve

We need some new help for the Wednesday 2-meter Rag chew Net. It could be staffed by one person or more than one person could split the responsibility. It is a good opportunity to mentor new hams.

DMR Training

If you are interested in obtaining a copy of the Video of each Session please bring a USB stick (estimate 3GB per session) and we can make a copy available to you to download on your USB stick with a NARS donation of \$6.00 per session. You can sign up at the meeting. Many have requested this as a helpful tool to refer back to when programming radio's and other general information related to DMR. This video is NOT planned for wide public publication so take advantage of this opportunity.

MARCH MEETING

WSJT-X FT8 JS8CALL presented by
Marty Fitzgerald.

Friday, February 15th at Klein Fire
Department Administration, 16810
Squyres Rd., Klein, TX 77379.

FEBRUARY MEETING

**"Radio to Computer
connections" presented by
Richard Nelson and an
update on the NARS
repeaters.**

Congratulations

- Michael Chatterton - New Technician
- Dan Carroll - New Technician
- William Hallowell - Upgrade to General
- Sebastian Stavar - New General
- Keith Klimple - Upgrade to General
- Leland Ransom II - Upgrade to Extra

Saturday, February 23rd

We had 6 candidates taking 9 tests.

Element 2 tests given: 3; passed 3

Element 3 tests given: 4; passed 3

Element 4 tests given: 2; passed 1

Thanks to the VE's in attendance:

Martin Rogoff N5GPS, Sheree Horton KF5LMJ,
Ron Horton KF5LFL, Stephen Protz KA5AUD,
Keith Dutson NM5G, Michael Bowen WE5ET.

And to Ron Matusek WA6TQH , NARS ARRL VE Liaison.

Special points of interest:

- Next VE Session March 23rd, 2019; 8:15 am
at Tomball Regional Hospital

NARS WEBSITE: W5NC.NET
E-Mail Reflector: mailman.qth.net.

NARS now has a new address!

Please update your address list!

Northwest Amateur Radio Society
P.O. Box 11483 Spring, TX 77391



*Houston Transtar Building
Conference Center West Entrance
6922 Katy Road
Houston, TX 77024*

V.E. Exams every 4th Saturday of the month at 9:30 a.m.

Contact: Mark Landress, WB5ANN@arrl.net for further info.

Welcome, Congratulations, and Condolences

NARS Info

Board Meetings

The board meetings will be at 6:00 on the same date and at the same location as the general membership meeting, except for January due to the NARS award banquet.

General Membership Meetings

3rd. Friday each month at 7:30 pm. — EXCEPT January Banquet
Located at Klein Fire Station Administration, 16810 Squyres Rd., Klein, TX 77379. Located behind Klein Fire Station 4.

Annual Membership renewal

The time has come for everyone to renew your membership with NARS for 2019! All dues are paid annually, during December and January.

Membership dues remain at \$20, \$25 for family, and \$12.50 for students.

Fill out our membership application form and send your membership dues to the NARS P.O. Box. PLEASE MARK AS RENEWAL. Alternatively, you can submit your application and payment in person to the treasurer at one of our gatherings or next general meeting which are held the 3rd Friday of the month.

This past year NARS has provided the following events with the help of your membership:

- Award Banquet
- Successful field day, 2nd place in 2A South Texas.
- Digital Mobile Radio (DMR) classes.
- Volunteer Examinations.
- Monthly meeting on interesting topics like WRTC, Houston's Buffalo Bayou, and the Texas QSO Party to name a few.

This year, we hope to accomplish even more, with your help. However, we couldn't do it without the generous contributions of members just like you!

NARS name tag

If you would like a NARS name tag get in touch with Sheree Horton at a general meeting or contact her via email at sher5456@gmail.com. Sheree needs your name and call.

Weekly 2m Net

Wednesdays at 8 pm.
Monitor Reflector for Current Repeater.
Coordinator: Jerry Whiting KB5VGD
g_whiting@sbcglobal.net

Weekly DMR Net

Tuesdays at 7 pm.
Monitor Reflector for Current Repeater.
Coordinator: Ron Matusek WA6TQH
ronm1@att.net

NARS Resource List

Digital Modes (Including DMR)

Walter Holmes – K5WH

Marty Fitzgerald – W5MF

Ron Matusek – WA6TQH

NARS Officers & Other Contacts

President & Board Chairman

Ron Matusek WA6TQH
281 205-3068
officers@w5nc.net

Vice President

Marty Fitzgerald W5MF
281 251-4301
officers@w5nc.net

Treasurer

Sheree Horton KF5LMJ
713 299-6994
officers@w5nc.net

Secretary

Martin Rogoff N5GPS
281 890-4538
officers@w5nc.net

Newsletter Editor

Martin Rogoff N5GPS
832-603-0036
officers@w5nc.net

Directors (term expires 12/31/2019)

Ron Horton KF5LFL
713 299-7013
officers@w5nc.net

Mike Bowen N8ILU
281 954-0940
officers@w5nc.net

Directors (term expires 12/31/2020)

Richard Nelson KF5WRD
281 257-1279
officers@w5nc.net

Mike Pate K5MAP
281-376-1316
officers@w5nc.net

Texas QSO Party

Co-coordinator: Chuck Sanders NO5W
832 657-4832
no5w.chuck@gmail.com

Administrative & General Info.

Marty Fitzgerald W5MF
281 251-4301
officers@w5nc.net

Web site

URL: <http://www.w5nc.net>
Web Master: Bill Buoy N5BIA
281 370-3510 webmaster@w5nc.net

NARS E-Mail Reflector

NARS@mailman.qth.net
Coordinator: Keith Dutson NM5G
keith1@dutson.net

VE Session (ARRL) Manager

Ronald Matusek – WA6TQH
vec@w5nc.net

Texas QSO Party

Co-coordinator: Keith Dutson NM5G
281 516-1466
keith1@dutson.net